Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
Board of Education Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2005 – 7:00 p.m. | Borough Administration Building
Regular Meeting | 148 N. Binkley, Soldotna, Alaska

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:
Mrs. Sammy Crawford, President
Ms. Sandra Wassilie, Vice President
Mrs. Debra Mullins, Clerk
(Vacant), Treasurer
(Vacant)
Dr. Nels Anderson
Mrs. Debbie Brown
Mr. Marty Anderson
Mrs. Sunni Hilts
Miss Kelly King, Student Representative

STAFF PRESENT:
Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Melody Douglas, Chief Financial Officer
Mr. Sam Stewart, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Glen Szymoniak, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Tim Peterson	Mr. Sean Dusek
Mr. Dave Spence	Mrs. Christine Ermold
Mrs. Laurie Olson	Mr. Bill Smith
Mr. Larry Nauta	Ms. Liz Downing
Mr. Dan Chay	Mr. Joe Nicks
Ms. Terri Woodward	Mrs. Jamie Harper
Mr. Paul Sorenson	Mrs. Julie Ball
Mr. Larry Semmens	Mrs. Cathy Carrow

Others present not identified.

CALL TO ORDER:
Mrs. Crawford called the meeting to order at 1:24 p.m. A quorum of School Board members, Mrs. Sammy Crawford, Dr. Nels Anderson, Mrs. Debbie Brown, Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Sandy Wassilie were in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 1:25 p.m. Dr. Anderson moved the Board go into executive session to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough. Specifically, the executive session was to discuss negotiations tactics and strategies. Mrs. Mullins seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION:
At 2:34 p.m., Mrs. Mullins moved the executive session be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER:
(7:00:26 PM)
Mrs. Crawford called the business meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:
(7:00:42 PM)
Mrs. Crawford invited those present to participate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MISSION STATEMENT:
(7:01:05 PM)

Dr. Anderson read the District mission statement.

OATH OF OFFICE:
(7:01:36 PM)

The Oath of Office was administered to newly-elected School Board members Mrs. Debra Mullins, Mrs. Debbie Brown, and Dr. Nels Anderson by notary public, Mrs. Sally Tachick.

ROLL CALL:
(7:03:59 PM)

Mrs. Sammy Crawford	Present
Mrs. Debra Mullins	Present
Dr. Nels Anderson	Present
Ms. Sandra Wassilie	Present
Mrs. Debbie Brown	Present
Mr. Marty Anderson	Absent/Excused
Mrs. Sunni Hilts	Absent/Excused
Miss Kelly King	Present

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
(7:04:36 PM)

The agenda was approved with the addition of Item 11a.(4), Leave of Absence-Certified and the deletion of Item 11e, School Board Vacancy Replacement for District Seat 2.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:
(7:05:35 PM)

Mrs. Crawford announced that a reorganization of the Board was in order.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson nominated Mrs. Debra Mullins as president of the Board.

MOTION

Mrs. Brown moved that the election of officers be postponed until new members are seated and the full Board is present. The motion died for lack of a second.

Dr. Anderson requested that nominations for president be closed. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Crawford passed the gavel to the new president, Mrs. Mullins.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie nominated Mrs. Sammy Crawford as vice president of the Board. Dr. Anderson requested that nominations for vice president be closed. Ms. Wassilie seconded.

VOTE:
YES – Wassilie, N. Anderson, Crawford, Mullins
NO – Brown

Motion carried.

MOTION

Dr. Anderson nominated Mrs. Sandy Wassilie as clerk of the Board. Mrs. Crawford requested that nominations for clerk be closed. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION

Ms. Wassilie nominated Mr. Marty Anderson as treasurer of the Board. Ms. Crawford requested that nominations for treasurer be closed. Dr. Anderson seconded.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:
(continued)

Mrs. Crawford confirmed that even though Mr. Anderson was not in attendance, he was willing to serve as treasurer.

VOTE:
YES – Crawford, Wassilie, N. Anderson, Mullins
NO – Brown

Motion carried.

ESTABLISH MEETING TIME, DATE AND PLACE:
(7:10:59 PM)
MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board set its meeting time, date and place for 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month (unless otherwise noted) at the Borough Administration Building, Soldotna (unless otherwise noted) and that two meetings be scheduled in Homer and Seward in the fall and spring. Mrs. Wassilie seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
(7:11:43 PM)

The School Board Minutes of October 3, 2005, were approved as printed.

AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS:
(7:12:14 PM)

The Board presented the Polar Robotics Team and Janice Seavey, mother of Mr. Dallas Seavey, with Spirit of Youth Award Nomination Certificates. The Robotics Team was nominated for improving handicap access to the Kenai River, and Mr. Seavey was nominated for being the youngest person to race the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

SCHOOL REPORT:
(7:19:03 PM)

Mr. Larry Nauta, Aurora Borealis Charter School Administrator, noted that the school is operating in its 9th year. ABC students, Mr. Will McDermid and Mr. Alex Kauffman narrated a computer-generated PowerPoint presentation highlighting assessment scores, school goals, parent participation and input, curriculum, and academic competitions. The Polar Bear Robotics Team presented the robotic lift which was developed for a competition and was designed to allow disabled persons to access the Kenai River for sports fishing. The students performed a skit illustrating the creation of the lift.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(7:32:30 PM)

Ms. Debra Poore, Homer parent, thanked the Board for providing a form to protect student privacy rights from military recruiters and suggested that the form be put in the student handbook.

Ms. Amy Christensen, Homer parent, asked the Board and administration to review the military opt out form and asked to have parents made aware that student directory information is given to military recruiters. She suggested that the form be included in the student handbook.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:
(continued)

Ms. Sue Butler, Homer parent, stated that parents need to be informed about what information is being provided to military recruiters and suggested that the military opt out form be included in the orientation packet as well as information about deadlines. Mrs. Brown asked if Ms. Butler could suggest other ways to inform parents of the military opt out form. Ms. Butler suggested that the information be included in the school newsletters and email. Ms. Poore suggested that the form be available for download from the District website.

Mr. Stewart explained that the old opt out form is online and that the new form should be available online on October 18.

Mary Jo Spots, Soldotna parent, stated that school staff members do not handle the opt out form consistently or don't seem to know what to do with the forms and suggested that they be educated. She asked the District to inform parents about the optional Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery which is used as a career exploration survey and a recruitment tool. She asked the administration to provide more information in school newsletters and the student handbook.

Mrs. Brown asked whether student directory information had already been shared with outside organizations and if the District could ask for a retraction of the information. She asked how the District could make sure that all parents know about the military opt out form. Mr. Stewart responded that the District Office will forward the new form to all schools so that it can be distributed in newsletters. He stated that there is no way to retract information that has already been shared. He explained that the opt-out choice has always been available for parents but, prior to the new form, it was all inclusive. He added that in response to public demand the District developed a method to allow the opting out of military recruitment only or out of sharing information with all organizations.

Mrs. Brown asked whether opt out notification can be forwarded to organizations that have already received student information so that the student names can be removed. Mr. Stewart stated that the opt out notification could be shared with the organizations but they would be under no obligation to abide by the request. He stated that District released information based on the opt out information that had already been submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:
(7:45:27 PM)

Dr. Peterson noted that the proposed military opt out form was included in the Board information packet, and is an exhibit page in the District Policy Manual, which does not require Board action. She reported that the AASB Annual Conference will be held on November 3-6. She reported that a donation from Tesoro for $1,000 of fuel was received to be used for homeless families to drive to needed services in the community.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:
(7:47:19 PM)

Dr. Peterson explained that there were no applicants for the School Board vacancy for Seat 2 and that the process for filling the seat will be to reopen the application process from October 18 until 12:00 p.m. on October 24. She reported that interviews would be conducted at 12:00 p.m. on October 26 with a special board meeting to follow at 1:00 p.m. She commented that it is hoped that the newly selected member can attend the AASB Annual Conference New Board Training in November. She reported that Sterling Elementary and Nikiski North Star were 2 of 50 schools nationwide named as NASA Explorer Schools. She noted that the program is designed to bring science and technology to students. She reported that the District Office recently received Critical Incident Training. She reported that the District Office administration has conducted 95 site visits for the month of September. She invited the Board to attend the Kenai Middle School Leadership Class Holiday Card-making Party at Soldotna Elementary. She commended the KCHS football team for placing first in the small schools state football championship and noted that the team also won the academic award.

Ms. Wassilie asked how the Tesoro donation will be shared. Dr. Peterson stated that she will research the program in more detail and provide a response.

FINANCIAL REPORT:
(7:51:08 PM)

Mrs. Douglas presented the financial report of the District for the period ending September 30, 2005.

QUARTERLY BUDGET TRANSFER REPORT:
(7:51:36 PM)

Mrs. Douglas reported on budget transfers Numbers 1 through 66 for various schools and departments within the District.

BOARD REPORTS:
(7:52:18 PM)

Ms. Wassilie reported that she attended the October 11 Language Arts Curriculum Committee lead by Ms. Paula Christensen and noted that the group will develop a new curriculum guide from the beginning which will be articulated with the grade level expectation and include a comprehensive framework that sequences the skills from each grade level to the next and cross-referenced with Alaska content standards. She reported that another decision was made to work on all of the language arts skills with reading last.

Mrs. Crawford reported that she attended a portion of the Six Trait Writing Workshop, chaired by Ms. Christensen. She reported that a large dynamic group of teachers worked on Six Trait Writing training and added that it was impressive to see the teachers tying it in with curriculum mapping.

Ms. Wassilie reported that the Policy Review Committee reviewed Section 6000 and changes will come to the Board at a future worksession.

RECESS:
(7:54:38 PM)

At 7:54 p.m., Mrs. Mullins called a recess.

RECONVENE AFTER RECESS:
(8:02:28 PM)

At 8:02 p.m., the Board reconvened in regular session.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(7:02:49 PM)

Items presented on the Consent Agenda were Approval of New Teacher Assignments, Nontenure Teacher for Tenure, Recommendation to Open Negotiations with KPEA and KPESA, and Leave of Absence-Certified.

NEW TEACHER ASSIGNMENTS:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve teaching assignments for Andrew Rothenberger, generalist at Kachemak-Selo School; Tanya Erwin (temporary) Title I teacher at Mt. View Elementary; Krista Holman, science teacher at Ninilchik School; and Ronanda Liberty, generalist at Susan B. English School.

NONTENURE TEACHER FOR TENURE:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve Erik Larson, a nontenure teacher, for tenure.

RECOMMENDATION TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH KPEA AND KPESA:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended that the Board provide opportunities for public comment on the issues to be addressed in the collective bargaining process under the public presentation portion of regular School Board meetings. It is further recommended that the District prepare to open negotiations with Kenai Peninsula Education Association and Kenai Peninsula Education Support Association no later than February 15, 2006.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE-CERTIFIED:

Mr. Szymoniak recommended the Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Catherine Kibling, special education/resource teacher, Kenai Peninsula Youth Facility, (effective December 19, 2005 through the remainder of the 05-06 school year).

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve Consent Agenda Items Numbers 1 through 4. Mrs. Wassilie seconded.

Mrs. Brown stated that the confidentiality rules governing executive sessions limits the ability of board members to discuss matters with the public and asked how she can discuss negotiations with constituents in her District. She asked whether members of the Board are able to talk to constituents once the Board approves the recommendation to open negotiations. She asked for clarification about how the public can speak to Board members regarding negotiations.

Mrs. Brown asked to remove 11a.(3)

Consent Agenda Items 1,2, and 4 approved unanimously.

Mrs. Brown stated that she does not object to the recommendation to open negotiations with KPEA and KPESA. She asked for clarification about how much School Board members can speak to the public about negotiations.

CONSENT AGENDA:
(continued)

Mr. Szymoniak explained that the intent of the information covered in executive session regarding negotiations is to inform the Board. He reported that the director of human resources has kept the Board informed so that when negotiations begin they will be ready. He stated that the Board is being trained as well as informed. He stated that once negotiations have been opened, each Board meeting agenda will include a section for public input. He stated that anything shared during executive session is considered confidential because if not it would hinder the negotiating team's bargaining power.

Mrs. Brown asked if everything discussed during executive sessions must be kept confidential and if the Board should decline conversations with members of the public except when they come to the microphone to provide testimony. Dr. Peterson explained that some of the information provided in executive sessions is public information and can be obtained through various methods and can be shared but the context in which it is given should be kept confidential. Dr. Peterson explained that the public will want to interact with Board members and to provide them with information.

Mrs. Brown asked for a clear understanding about what can be discussed regarding negotiations. She stated that it is important that the public be able to have general conversations with Board members without jeopardizing confidentiality.

Mrs. Crawford reiterated that negotiations tactics and strategies are confidential and that much of the other information discuss during executive sessions is public information.

Consent Agenda Item 3 carried unanimously.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT:
(8:16:19 PM)

Mr. Szymoniak recommended that the Board approve student transportation contracts for a five-year period to Laidlaw Transit for Service Areas I, II, and III.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the pupil transportation contract. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

STUDENT EXPULSION
(8:17:44 PM)

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board approve the following decision regarding student expulsion 2005-06-001: "This matter was heard by the board on October 17, 2005. School Board members present were present Sammy Crawford, Sandra Wassilie, Debra Mullins, Nels Anderson, and Debbie Brown. Present on behalf of the administration were Todd Syverson, Sam Stewart. The mother was present with and on behalf of the student. Observing the hearing was Dr. Donna Peterson, Superintendent. The hearing was conducted in accordance with the Procedure for Student Hearings [by the School Board], as shown in E 5144.11(c) of the School Board Policy Manual.

STUDENT EXPULSION
(continued)

The student is accused of using marijuana on school grounds before school started on Monday October 3, 2005. He admitted he had used marijuana on school grounds several times before and after school. The student was in possession of drug paraphernalia with drug residue. The student admitted to selling marijuana and drug paraphernalia off school grounds to another Soldotna High School student. The drug paraphernalia he sold to another student off-grounds was the same paraphernalia the student was using on the morning of October 3rd. The student admitted he had smoked marijuana during his middle years at Soldotna Middle School, but was never caught. The student admitted to selling marijuana to other Soldotna High School students on several occasions (more than twice).

FINDINGS:

1. The informal hearing, suspension, and recommendation for expulsion were held in accord with Board policy.

2. The student was caught in possession of drug paraphernalia with drug residue on October 3, 2005, on school grounds which violates BP 5131.6(a). The student admitted to using marijuana that morning on school grounds. The student further admitted that he had used marijuana on school grounds for several years but had not been previously caught.

3. The student admitted to selling drugs on several occasions to other Soldotna High School students. Such activity violates BP5131.6(b). Under this policy an immediate suspension and recommendation for expulsion to the Superintendent and school board was appropriate.

4. The student admitted to selling paraphernalia off campus and that this same paraphernalia was being used by students on campus on October 3, 2005, when the students were caught smoking marijuana.

5. Repeated use of marijuana on school property and the distribution of marijuana to other students is inimitable to the safety, welfare, and morals of the other students which is grounds for expulsion. AS 14.30.045.

OUR DECISION: The student is expelled for the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year and is subject to the following conditions on readmission at the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year:

1. Completion of a drug and alcohol counseling program which includes drug testing approved by the District with a written statement from the program provider stating that the student has successfully completed the program, and

2. Completion of a minimum of 3 credits of high school work through the KPBSD Connections program during the remainder of the 2005-2006 school year."

Dr. Anderson seconded

Motion carried unanimously.

2006 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:
(8:21:40 PM)

Dr. Peterson recommended the Board approve the list of 2006 state and federal legislative priorities.

Mrs. Brown stated that the families in District 7 would not approve of an accountability system as mentioned in the second bullet on the 2006 state legislative priority list.

MOTION

Mrs. Wassilie moved the Board approve an amendment to the 2006 state legislative priority list to move the word "increasing" before the word "retirement" in the second sentence of the last paragraph. Mrs. Crawford seconded.

Amendment carried unanimously.

Mrs. Crawford stated that she was impressed with the legislative priority document which was developed from an hour-long worksession and thanked the administration for their work.

VOTE:
ADVISORY VOTE: Yes
YES – Crawford, N. Anderson, Wassilie, Mullins
NO – Brown

Amended motion approved

SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY REPLACEMENT FOR DISTRICT SEAT 8:

Dr. Peterson explained that the Board conducted interviews of Board candidates, Mrs. Elizabeth Downing and Mr. Bill Smith, during a worksession prior to the Board meeting.

Mrs. Mullins introduced Mrs. Downing and Mr. Smith to those present.

MOTION

Mrs. Crawford moved the Board fill the School Board vacancy for District Seat 8 by secret ballot. Mrs. Brown seconded.

VOTE 1:
Elizabeth Downing – 3 votes
Bill Smith – 2 votes

VOTE 2:
Elizabeth Downing – 4 votes
Bill Smith – 1 vote

Mrs. Elizabeth Downing was selected as the replacement Board member for Seat 8 (Homer).

OATH OF OFFICE:
(8:32:41 PM)

Mrs. Sally Tachick, notary public, administered the Oath of Office to Mrs. Downing.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:
(8:34:48 PM)

Mr. Dave Carey, City of Soldotna Mayor, commended students who are interested in holding public office. He thanked the District for support of the 2006 Arctic Winter Games. He stated that he has spoken to many students throughout the District about the AWG and noted that enthusiasm is building. He encouraged those present to sign up as volunteers.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS/ COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Sharon Moock, Soldotna Middle School principal, thanked Mayor Carey for serving as the student council advisor at SMS and for participating on the school site council.

Mr. Smith, Board member applicant, thanked the Board for interviewing him for the vacant seat and noted that Ms. Downing is a good choice who will bring many strengths to the Board.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(8:41:36 PM)

Miss King thanked the Aurora Borealis students for the presentation. She thanked the parents and community members who spoke about the military opt out form. She thanked both District Seat 8 applicants and congratulated and welcomed Mrs. Downing.

Mrs. Brown asked for approximately 20 copies of the budget input forms and added that she will be looking for opportunities to meet with various groups in order to foster more public involvement. She congratulated Mrs. Downing.

Dr. Anderson thanked Mr. Smith for applying for the vacant Board seat.

Ms. Wassilie read from a demographic article printed in the 2005 *Economic Trend* which states that high school enrollment statewide will peak in 2006 at 46,300 students and will decline to 42,300 hitting bottom in 2012 and returning to the 2006 level in 2018. She reminded those present about the Conference of Young Alaskans, and noted that nominations will be accepted until October 28. She stated that the conference will be a model of the original Alaska Constitution Convention. She stated that information is available at http://coya.alaska.edu. She thanked the administration for the new military opt out form. She expressed appreciation for the Polar Bear Robotics Team presentation and the Aurora Borealis PowerPoint.

Mrs. Crawford thanked Mr. Smith for applying for the vacant Board seat and congratulated Mrs. Downing. She stated that the Aurora Borealis Charter School presentation was impressive. She reminded the Board that the AASB Resolutions were included in the General Information Packet (as well as copies for the public at the Board meeting) and added that all Board members are invited to the Resolution Committee meeting. She congratulated the KCHS football team for their fourth consecutive state championship. She thanked Board members for their support and help during her past year as president. She congratulated Mrs. Mullins for being selected as the new president.

Mrs. Downing stated that she has enjoyed meeting the Board members and is excited to see their dedication. She stated that she is honored to serve and thanked Mr. Smith for the kind words.

BOARD COMMENTS:
(continued)

Mrs. Mullins explained that 20 years ago she served as Board president and thanked the Board for their patience during the transition period. She reported that she attended the Character Counts Program at Nikiski North Star Elementary School and added that it was a wonderful event. She thanked Mrs. Crawford for serving as president during the past year. She appointed herself, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Crawford to the Interest Based Bargaining Committee; Mrs. Wassilie to the Language Arts Committee; Mrs. Wassilie to the AASB Resolutions Committee; and herself to the Calendar Committee.

Mrs. Brown asked to serve on the Charter School Committee. Mr. Szymoniak announced that the Charter School Committee will meet on October 26 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURN:
(8:53:28 PM)

At 8:53 p.m., Mrs. Crawford moved the School Board Meeting be adjourned. Dr. Anderson seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Mrs. Debra Mullins, President

_____
Mrs. Sandra Wassilie, Clerk

The Minutes of October 26, 2005,
were approved on November 7, 2005
with a change.